

Pastured Poultry Workshop
March 22-23, 2002
Nampa Civic Center
Nampa, Idaho

Speaker List

Dr. Mary K. Hendrickson

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Dr. Hendrickson is an Extension Assistant Professor in the Department of Rural Sociology, and is Co-Director of the Food Circles Networking Project at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her work as a rural sociologist has emphasized understanding the global nature of the dominant food system and how farmers, processors and consumers take part in it. With her colleague, Bill Heffernan, she has written two reports for National Farmers Union detailing concentration in the global food system. Dr. Hendrickson's research analyzing an alternative food group, the Kansas City Food Circle, led to a state-funded University of Missouri Outreach and Extension project called the Food Circles Networking Project. This project seeks to create infrastructure for an alternative food system by building direct relationships between farmers and eaters, relationships that are embedded in local community.

Dr. Hendrickson currently serves as the Associate Director for the University of Missouri Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program. In October 2001 she was elected President of the Community Food Security Coalition, a national organization of community-based sustainable agriculture, hunger, and environmental groups. She is a past co-chair of the Sociology of Agriculture Interest Group of the Rural Sociological Society, and is an active member of the Columbia Area Food Circle. Dr. Hendrickson is also involved in several research and outreach activities that specifically focus on increasing knowledge and awareness of community food systems among agriculture professionals and community leaders, as well as providing research information to farmers seeking to try alternatives.

Dr. Hendrickson grew up in Nebraska where she took an active role in the various activities of her family's 500-acre grain and livestock farm, and participated in 4-H and FFA at the local and state level. One brother has remained on the family farm where he strives to make his sister understand the complexities of farming today.

Herman Beck-Chenoweth

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Herman Beck-Chenoweth, the author of “Free-Range Poultry Production and Marketing,” has been grazing chickens and turkeys in southern Ohio since 1991. After requesting information about another pastured poultry method, he stumbled across an old agricultural textbook that alluded to free-range production. Intrigued, he discovered that this had once been a very popular system that was nearly wiped out when Tyson began raising birds in buildings. In less than 2 years time, what was once a thriving industry was gone.

After speaking with some old-timers and raising some birds using the modified free-range system, he approached Ohio State University where a graduate student, Anu Rangarajan, agreed to help him locate some out of print materials for his research.

He obtained the materials and set about constructing skid houses, developing feed formulas, and re-invented the free-range system, which had continued to be used in Europe. Once the production system was perfected, he and his wife Linda discovered that it would be possible for them to process the birds on-farm for retail sale. This began another learning event as the knowledge about small-scale slaughterhouses was missing as well.

Until 2000, Herman raised turkeys and meat chickens on range for sale to restaurants and consumers and used the modified free-range system for egg production. He presently produces vegetables using the mechanized raised-bed system he developed and breeds heritage chickens and turkeys.

In 1996 he wrote “Free-Range Poultry Production and Marketing,” which is being used by universities, extension services and farmers all over the U.S. and abroad. Due to popular demand, in 1997 he began teaching 3-day hands-on courses in free-range production, poultry processing and marketing at his farm in Creola, Ohio. This led to the formation of Resilience, a non-profit group that operates the Resilience Institute and conducts workshops throughout the U.S. Since 1999 Herman has been the Executive Director of Resilience, editing the Resilience Magazine, performing on-farm research and writing for such publications as “The Mother Earth News.”

Herman and Linda are moving to a new farm in Shannon County Missouri during the summer of 2002. They are members of an intentional community that is food self-sufficient and that operates Back40Books.com, a web-based bookstore that also participates in trade shows at agricultural conferences. He plans to continue research at the new farm, to write for publication and to speak at conferences and workshops.

For more information:

Resilience, Inc.

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Janie Burns

Conference organizer
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Janie is the owner of Meadowlark Farm in Nampa, Idaho. She has grown Idaho certified organic produce and sold at Boise farmers markets since 1989. Having tried many vegetables and flowers, she's settled into growing mostly lettuce and haricots verts (mainly because her customers won't let her stop!) In addition to the vegetables, she sells frozen lamb from a 60-ewe sheep flock, eggs, chickens and turkeys through the Capital City Public Market in Boise. Janie also grows for and manages the Idaho Organic Cooperative, a 9-member group selling in-season organic produce to area restaurants and the Boise Consumer Co-Op.

J.D. Wulforth

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J.D. Wulforth is a rural sociologist specializing in community development and natural resources. He received training in social science research methodologies at the Institute for Social Science Research on Natural Resources while completing his doctorate at Utah State University. J.D. currently directs the University of Idaho's Social Science Research Unit and conducts research as a faculty member in the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences. J.D. has a strong interest in sustainable and local production systems for growers interested in small-scale agricultural operations.

Skeeter Lynch

Full Circle Farm
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Full Circle Farms began as a homestead in 1893 and has been owned by family for the last 3 generations. Located in Princeton Idaho, Skeeter and Phil have operated Full Circle as a sustainable

organic farm since 1990 and became Certified Organic in 1999. Their farm hosts the first Certified Organic Egg operation in Idaho and an extensive small farm equipment repair and fabrication business. Phil has more than 40 years experience, specializing in “on site” repair and pre-buy equipment assessment. Skeeter serves as a Rural Roots Leadership Team member, provides contract support for several Rural Roots projects, and offers workshops on pastured, free range and certified organic egg production. They both enjoy their work and welcome on farm visitors.

Tom Delehanty

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Tom Delehanty, a 6th generation farmer, along with his wife Tracey and their two children Shayna and Griffin, own and operate the largest pastured poultry operation in the U.S. The operation runs year round and is certified organic. His experiences have earned him invitations to speak at several regional and national conferences to share information about pastured poultry production.

Tom has taken an active role in the agriculture industry, being active in several local and national organizations. He is President of the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA), a producer organization dedicated to sharing information on the development of pastured poultry models, with quarterly publications (Jody Padgam, (715) 577-5966 or www.apppa.org). He is also the secretary and founding board member of the New Mexico Organic Livestock Co-op, a producer organization supporting marketing and distribution of certified organic beef, lamb, turkey, goat cheese, eggs, and chicken.

In addition, Tom was the founding board member of the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, an organization devoted to preserving farmland and open space along the Rio Grande valley. He has also played an important role in the development of direct marketing in New Mexico. He was founder of the Socorro Farmer's Market and is involved with many of the state farmers' markets, supporting events and developing consumer education for the New Mexico Organic Livestock Coop members and their products.

Arden Schmitt

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Arden was born on a farm in a German colony of Nebraska where he was raised with four brothers and one sister. His family raised cattle and hogs and Arden was in charge of the chickens. He sold eggs for 17 cents a dozen at that time, and also kept some pet pigeons. Since his initial introduction to birds, he has had a variety of birds on his farm over the last 22 years. In order to support his bird

addiction, he taught at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind for 20 years. His current farm of 5 acres supports three breeds of laying hens, white silkie, old English bantams, golden siebrites, white homing pigeons, birmingham rollers, parlor rollers, helmets, emus, peacocks, chukers, quail, doves, two breeds of ducks and three breeds of geese, guineas, pygmy goats, a milk cow and turkeys. He also raises a large garden. He has a wonderful wife and 5 children - 3 of their own, one adopted deaf son and a foster son.

Margaret Misner

Program Manager, Organic Certification Program
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Margaret graduated from Montana State University with a bachelors degree in Agricultural Production and has worked as the program manager of the organic program at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture since July 1999. She has worked for the department since 1994 in various positions, including Seed Analyst Trainee, Field Inspector, and Technical Records Specialist in the pesticide-licensing program. Her duties as the organic program manager include providing information and assistance to growers in order to comply with the organic program requirements, coordinating inspections and the issuance of organic certificates.

Mary Valentine

Manager, Food Protection Program
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Mary is a native Idahoan who grew up in Jerome and attended the University of Idaho. She graduated from California State College, Sonoma, with a degree in biology, and has been an Environmental Health Specialist for 27 years, working various regulatory positions in California and Idaho. She presently works for the State of Idaho, coordinating the Food Protection Program, is certified as a Food Safety Manager, and is commissioned by the FDA to carry out investigations and recalls.

As a program manager in California, she had responsibility for a variety of environmental health programs including drinking water, solid waste, wastewater disposal, swimming pools and retail food facilities. After moving back to Idaho, she worked for the South Central District Health Department in Twin Falls, coordinating the retail food and day care programs. Mary was promoted to the position of Program Manager for the State of Idaho in the Food Protection Program in

October 2000, and is responsible for providing training and guidance to Idaho's seven health districts in the food protection program.

Terry Swagerty

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Terry is currently the Agriculture Program Assistant for WSU Cooperative Extension in Stevens County. He is currently working to develop a mobile poultry-processing unit that can be certified by the Washington State Department of Agriculture to be used on farm. Lack of processing facilities is a big hurdle preventing the development of a genuine poultry industry in the area. Last October he traveled to Nebraska and South Dakota to view mobile processing units that are operated by small farm co-ops. He plans to share some of the insights gleaned from their experience and the challenges still ahead. Terry is active in the Northeast Washington Small Farm Association, and raises Dorper sheep and tree fruit near the Columbia River north of Kettle Falls.

Al Kowitz

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Al has been with Washington State University for six years. He recently began working on the issues of processing and distribution for small family farmers. His original focus was on beef, but more recently he discovered a great potential in pastured poultry. He sees the single greatest barrier for a successful pastured poultry operation as being the lack of available processing. He is working to address this issue at the county, state and eventually the federal level.

Holly Born

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Ms. Born works for ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) as an Agricultural Specialist in marketing and economics. She coordinates the writing of brochures on direct marketing for Sustainable Agriculture Network and surveys the research project on value-added for the Southern SAWG (Sustainable Agriculture Working Group). She also works with Anne Fanatico on a project to help growers assess the feasibility of expanding

production of pastured or free-range poultry for Heifer Project International. Holly has a BS in International Agricultural Development from UC-Davis, an MA in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University and an MBA from the University of Arkansas.

Kathleen Kimball

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Kathleen and her husband live in the center of the Magic Valley of Idaho in Hazelton on 40 acres. In an effort to raise more of their own food, they began raising poultry and discovered there was no place to get them butchered. Kathleen wanted a job that would allow her to stay home with her daughter and her husband was looking for a retirement job, so they decided to build their own poultry processing facility. Kathleen found little guidance from county, state, and federal officials and had to research many of the regulations and their implementation all by herself. Of course, once she had done the work, everyone had an opinion. Her facility has been wildly successful.

Mandi Thompson

Trade Specialist and conference organizer
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Mandi came to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in January 2000 as a marketing analyst. Her areas of responsibilities include the geographical regions of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America, as well as the fruit, onion and bean industry sectors. Mandi also works with the domestic marketing program at the department, where she works with specialty food producers, farmers' markets, specialty crops and livestock and direct marketing programs. Ms. Thompson studied at la Universidad del País Vasco in Bilbao, Spain, before completing her bachelor's degree in international studies and political science at the University of Idaho in December 1999. She and her husband, Travis, live in Boise.